

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The CALFED Program has maintained a strong commitment to public outreach and involvement. CALFED agencies have included members of the public in the development of every program component, from ecosystem restoration to financing. CALFED agencies have held hundreds of scoping meetings, technical workshops, public information meetings, and BDAC and related work group meetings. The Program publishes newsletters and information booklets, and supports a web site and toll-free public information telephone line.

In addition to the many CALFED sponsored general public meetings and stakeholder workshops, 17 formal public hearings on the March 1998 Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) were held around the state in April and May 1998. During the formal public comment period, CALFED received over 1,800 comments that included 469 speakers at the hearings. Thousands of post cards and form letters were also received.

The release of the June 1999 Draft Programmatic EIS/EIR was followed by a 90-day public comment period. Sixteen formal public hearings were held in August and September 1999 at which approximately 800 people testified. Almost 1,500 letters and 2,400 postcards were received commenting on the Program. These comments were used to improve the program plans and assist in the development of the Preferred Program Alternative.

The CALFED Program has worked to involve California's diverse multi-cultural communities by producing fact sheets in five languages (Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese), briefing multi-cultural business, media, social services, and agricultural organizations, and placing meeting notices in ethnic media outlets. Increasing awareness and knowledge among the multi-cultural communities is a continued goal of the Program's public outreach.

The CALFED agencies have also begun to meet with tribes and tribal representatives in order to increase tribal participation in the CALFED Program. This year, the CALFED Program made an initial investment to support increased tribal participation and outreach and to evaluate the impacts of the Program in tribal communities.

The CALFED agencies are committed to fulfilling their responsibilities to consult with the sovereign Native American Indian tribes that will be affected by the Program. CALFED agencies will encourage tribal knowledge of, and active and strong involvement

